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**Customer No. 24118**

Attorn y Docket MEW087-100/011018

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Application No.:** 09/980,431

**Filing Date:** 3/27/02

**Priority Date:** 4 December 2000

**Inventor:** YONNET, Claude

**For:** PILOT VALVE

**Examiner:** Krishnamurthy, Ramesh

**Art Unit:** 3753

**AMENDMENT**

Director For Patents  
Mail Stop: Amendment With Extension  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated 07/12/04, the Applicant requests the above-identified application to be re-examined in view of the following amendments and remarks:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,  
on 12 January 2005

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as applied to claims 1-8 and 10-14 above and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,460,196 to Yonnet, who is also the current Applicant. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Claim 17 depends on currently amended claim 1. Applicant believes that currently amended claim 1 is novel over the cited art as stated above herein and believes that therefore claim 17 is also novel because it depends upon an allowable independent claim.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested. If any additional fees are associated with this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-1500.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 12 January 2005

BY: 

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